Harbourfront Commission Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

Minutes of Thirty-second Meeting

Date	:	7 September 2018
Time	:	2:30 p.m.
Venue	:	Conference Room (Room G46) at Upper Ground Floor,
		Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Kowloon Park,
		Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Present

Mr Ivan HO	Chair, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Mr Andy LEWIS	Representing Business Environment Council
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Representing Chartered Institute of Logistics and
Mrs Karen BARRETTO	Transport in Hong Kong Representing Friends of the Earth
Mr Anthony CHEUNG	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Dr Eunice MAK	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Sr Francis LAM	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek	Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the
	Harbour
Mr SO Kwok-yin	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr Walter CHAN	
Mr Karl KWOK	
Ir Janice LAI	
Mr Vincent NG	Chair, Harbourfront Commission
Mr NGAN Man-yu	
Hon Tony TSE	
Mr Stanley HO	
Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing	
Ms Doris HO	Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and
	Lands)1, Development Bureau (DEVB)
Mr Edward LEUNG	Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism
	Commission (TC)
Mr Eddy WU	Chief Traffic Engineer / Hong Kong (Ag.),

	Transport Department (TD)
Mr Wilson MA	Chief Engineer/ South 3, Civil Engineering and
	Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Michael CHIU	Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1, Leisure and
	Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr Louis KAU	District Planning Officer/ Hong Kong, Planning
	Department (PlanD)
Mr Henry LAI	Secretary

In Attendance

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG				
Mr Ian CHENG				
Mr Peter MOK				
Ms Daphne LI				
Mr Carlos FUNG				
Mr Rex LAI				

Absent with Apologies

Mr Evans IU

Mr Terence LEE

Mr Hans Joachim ISLER Mr Henry CHAN Ms Jacqueline CHUNG Ms Lisa LAU Ms Vivian YIP

For Agenda Item 4

Mr LAM Kwai-sang

Mr Kevin SUEN Ms Denise LAU

For Agenda Item 5

Mr Kevin LI Ms Selah AU Ms Juana CHAN Mr Kenneth CHAN Department (ArchSD) Senior Project Manager 121, ArchSD Project Manager 176, ArchSD

Senior Architect/12, ArchSD Architect/106, ArchSD Senior Project Manager 136, ArchSD Project Manager 173, ArchSD

Co-opted Member Chief Project Manager 103, Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)

Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB

Assistant Secretary (Harbour)2, DEVB

Engineer (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB

Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape

Representing Real Estate Developers Association

Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB

Architect (Harbour)1, DEVB Engineer (Harbour), DEVB

Co-opted Member Co-opted Member Co-opted Member Co-opted Member

Architects

of Hong Kong

For Agenda Item 6

Mr Honson YUEN

Ms Anna YEUNG

For Agenda Item 7

Mr Charles HO Mr John LAW Ms Carmen CHU

Mr Ray TANG Mr Sunny TAI

For Agenda Item 8

Assistant Commissioner for Transport/ Management & Paratransit (Ag.), TD Chief Transport Officer/ Planning/ Ferry, TD

Senior Engineer/ Covered Walkway, TD Engineer/ Covered Walkway, TD Director, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited (Arup) Associate, Arup Planner, Arup

Mr Simpson LO	Assistant Commissioner for Tourism 2, TC
Miss Fiona YUEN	Assistant Manager (Tourism) 25, TC
Ms Gemma ROURA	Head of Events, Formula E Operations
Ms May TANG	Chief Operating Officer, Enova Holdings Limited
Mr Tat SUNG	Director of Operations, Formula Electric Racing
	(Hong Kong) Limited (FERHK)
Ms Coffee PANG	Director of Marketing and Communications,
	FERHK
Ms Vivian LEE	Managing Director, ActionHouse International
	Limited (ActionHouse)
Ms Elaine NG	Assistant Account Manager, ActionHouse

Welcoming Message

Mr Vincent NG, Chair of the Harbourfront Commission, welcomed all to the meeting.

Item 1 Election of Task Force Chair

- 1.1 **Mr Walter CHAN** and **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** nominated and **Members** supported Mr Ivan HO to be the Chair of the Task Force. **Mr Ivan HO** accepted the nomination and officially took over the chairmanship of the meeting.
- 1.2 **The Chair**¹ expressed his gratitude for Members' support. He informed the meeting that Mr Edward LEUNG, Senior Manager of Tourism Commission, attended the meeting on behalf of Mr Simpson LO; Mr Eddy WU, Chief Traffic Engineer (Acting) of Transport Department, attended the meeting on behalf of Mr Eddie LEUNG; and Mr Michael CHIU, Chief Executive Officer of Leisure and Cultural Services Department, attended the meeting on behalf of Ms Rebecca LOU.

Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes of the 30th and 31st Meetings

2.1 The Chair informed the meeting that the former Chair decided at the last (31st) meeting to postpone confirmation of the minutes of the 30th meeting. No changes were proposed to them after they were circulated on 30 April 2018. Besides, the draft minutes and the revised draft minutes of the 31st meeting were circulated on 4 and 7 September 2018 respectively with no proposed amendments received. The Task Force confirmed the minutes of the 30th and 31st meetings.

Item 3 Matters Arising

3.1 No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

¹"The Chair" thereafter referred to Mr Ivan HO as the Task Force Chair.

Item 4 Advance Promenade from Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section) to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Briefing by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)

4.1 **Mr LAM Kwai-sang** and **Mr Kevin SUEN** briefed Members on the preliminary design of the project with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

Design concept

- 4.2 Mr Andy LEWIS noted that a simple design was proposed since it was only a temporary promenade. He suggested having a more sophisticated design when the promenade was put into permanent use. Miss Rosalind CHEUNG explained that the purpose of building the proposed "advance promenade" was to open up available harbourfront land for early public enjoyment, instead of leaving them idle and having them developed and open together with nearby sites currently used by major infrastructure projects at a later stage. The long-term development plan of the subject site was to implement the recommendations of the "Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront" conducted in 2011 and the "Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas" which would be completed soon.
- 4.3 Mr Vincent NG, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, Sr Francis LAM, Ir Raymond CHAN, Hon Tony TSE, Mr Walter CHAN and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN supported the proposal for early implementation and opening as soon as possible. Quite a few also concurred with ArchSD that the advance promenade would serve mainly as a connector bridging between the Tamar Park and the Golden Bauhinia Square, and hence that the proposed simple and flexible design was considered

appropriate. Some opined that the advance promenade could re-energize the harbourfront and provide a prime location for viewing fireworks.

- 4.4 **Dr Eunice MAK** and **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** asked about the interface between the advance promenade and the adjacent promenades.
- 4.5 **Mr LAM Kwai-sang** stressed that the advance promenade was a connector rather than a focal destination. The current design was proposed taking into account the elongated piece of land to provide a gradual transition from an area of active facilities for children and gathering by adults to a relatively passive promenade for public enjoyment of the harbour view. He highlighted that the section with meandering ramble would provide a direct path for quick access to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Branding for the Victoria harbourfront

4.6 **Mr Vincent NG** suggested adding the logo of the Victoria Harbour and/or Harbourfront Commission at the advance promenade as well as other existing/ future promenades, where appropriate. **Hon Tony TSE** and **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** echoed the view.

Shelter

4.7 Mr Vincent NG, Mr Ken SO, Hon Tony TSE and Mr Walter CHAN supported having natural shading from trees with large canopies. Mr Walter CHAN added that covered structures could also be considered for providing rain shelter. He was concerned about tree safety and maintenance. Mr LAM Kwai-sang responded that ArchSD would work with CEDD in selecting the suitable species. 4.8 **Dr Eunice MAK and Hon Tony TSE** suggested providing facilities and seating area for the elderly. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that dog walking (on the leash) and cycling should be allowed. **Ir Raymond CHAN** considered that the site should be accessible by wheelchairs and prams and **Mr LAM Kwai-sang** responded that the government would provide hard-paving at suitable areas to address the needs.

Landing steps

4.9 Mr Anthony CHEUNG commented that the existing landing steps should be incorporated into the overall design. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN suggested providing lights, shelters and seats at the landing points. Mr LAM Kwai-sang responded that the landing steps would be taken into consideration during the detailed design stage to facilitate better water-land interface.

Area for organising events

4.10 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** proposed that more event space should be reserved in front of the harbourfront so that event participants could enjoy these events against the harbour backdrop. **Mr LAM Kwai-sang** agreed to take into account the above suggestion as appropriate.

Proposed FunScape for children

4.11 Mr Anthony CHEUNG regarded the design elements for the proposed FunScape as shown in the reference images of the powerpoint very interesting. These views were shared by Mr LEUNG Kong-yui Mr Ken SO, Sr Francis LAM and Ir Janice LAI. Mr LAM Kwai-sang agreed to adopt these attractive elements in the final design as far as possible. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** further suggested providing skateboard area at the FunScape.

Other comments

- 4.12 **Sr Francis LAM** proposed having some loading bays for tourists and visitors especially on weekends and public holidays.
- 4.13 **Ir Janice LAI** and **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested adding vending machines, drinking fountains and kiosks to the advance promenade.
- 4.14 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** recommended placing noise barrier at the section close to the main road.

Way forward

4.15 **The Chair** thanked ArchSD for the presentation. He invited and **Mr LAM Kwai-sang** agreed to take into consideration Members' comments when taking forward the proposal. ArchSD was invited to keep Members informed of the future developments.

Item 5 Advance Promenade near Wan Chai Ferry Pier

Briefing by ArchSD

5.1 **Mr Kevin LI** and **Ms Selah AU** briefed Members on the proposed design of the advance promenade near Wan Chai Ferry Pier with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

Design

- 5.2 Mr Vincent NG, Hon Tony TSE, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Mr Anthony CHEUNG, Sr Francis LAM, Ir Raymond CHAN and Mrs Karen BARETTO were supportive to the proposed bold design. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN added that the project would provide experimentation opportunities for innovative design. Mr Vincent NG said that a diversified and bold design for the harbourfront should be encouraged to bring vibrancy and vitality to the area.
- 5.3 Dr Eunice MAK opined and Mr Anthony CHEUNG echoed that the design for this part of the promenade should integrate with the Pierside Precinct to be developed there in the long run. Dr Eunice MAK enquired about the reason for introducing the "red-white-blue" element to the design. She also remarked that the design of the proposed shrub wall fencing off the west and east side of the promenade could be refined to enhance coherency. Miss Rosalind CHEUNG responded that the proposed advance promenade aimed to provide quality open space at the harbourfront and to enhance connectivity between the Wan Chai hinterland and the Ferry Pier as soon as possible so that its opening would not have to be delayed until the entire Wan Chai North Waterfront became available for long term development. **Ms** Juana CHAN added that an area facilitating future barging area, if any, had been reserved at the western part of the promenade for development of the future Pierside Precinct and a simple design with lawn or hard paved materials would be adopted there. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN suggested reviewing the location of the proposed barging area.
- 5.4 Apart from introducing authentic design element to the project, **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** suggested displaying artefacts at the thematic passage. **Ir Janice LAI** echoed his views. **Mr Kevin LI** thanked Members' suggestions and would explore them.

- 5.5 **Mr Vincent NG** supported implementing the proposal as soon as possible to further improve the continuity of the promenade between the Central and Western district and the Eastern district.
- 5.6 **Sr Francis LAM** opined that the design of the existing temporary footbridge linking the Harbour Centre and the Wan Chai Ferry Pier was convoluted and needed to be simplified.
- 5.7 **Ir Raymond CHAN** commented that the connection between the temporary bus terminal and the hinterland needed to be improved.
- 5.8 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that Members' comments on connectivity enhancement would be relayed to relevant government departments for consideration.

Multi-purpose area

5.9 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** supported having a multi-purpose area fronting the harbourfront but suggested further extending its scale and functionality. Besides, he opined that an alternative route should be provided at the multi-purpose area to minimise the number of people passing by the stage during performances.

Other comments

5.10 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that drinking fountains and kiosks should be provided and suggested providing shelter at the temporary bus terminal and re-orientating trees for better shading.

- 5.11 **Hon Tony TSE** said the water quality of Victoria Harbour should be improved otherwise it might affect the attractiveness of the promenade.
- 5.12 **Mrs Karen BARRETTO** enquired about the details of the proposed bicycle trail at the site. **Mr Kevin LI** responded that a bicycle trail had been proposed under the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas and would be considered as part of the long term development of the area.

Way forward

5.13 **The Chair** appreciated the diversified design for different sections of the promenade. He invited ArchSD to take into account Members' comments and keep Members informed of future developments.

Item 6 Invitation for Expressions of Interest for Operating Two Licensed Ferry Services

Briefing by the Transport Department (TD)

6.1 With the aid of a PowerPoint, **Ms Anna YEUNG** gave an update on the department's invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) in operating the Central-Hung Hom Ferry Service and an In-harbour Circular Service, the latter of which aimed to respond to the community's "water-taxi" suggestion.

Discussion

General comments

6.2 Mr Vincent NG, Mr Walter CHAN and Mr Anthony CHEUNG welcomed the provision of new ferry services as it would enhance accessibility and vibrancy to harbourfront areas.

6.3 **Ir Raymond CHAN** enquired if the proposed ferry services would be treated as a revenue item for the Government and whether the Government would subsidise them if it was operating at a deficit. **Mr Honson YUEN** responded that the TD would, in accordance with the Ferry Service Ordinance (Cap. 104), grant a licence to the operator for providing the proposed ferry services based on commercial principles, and the fare revenue would not be accrued to the Government. No subsidy would be offered to their operation if it was running at a loss. As ferry services would incur high operating cost, incorporating suitable commercial elements at the pier facilities in order to generate non-fare revenue to cross-subsidise the ferry services would be considered.

"Water-taxi" service

6.4 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** and **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** pointed out that the mode of operation of the proposed "water-taxi services" was not the most desirable one. They considered that an ideal "water-taxi" service should have flexible schedules and routes. **Mr ZIMMERMAN** further urged TD to revise the proposal and introduce flexible schedules and routes akin to the land taxi system. **Mr Andy LEWIS** concurred.

Target customers

6.5 **Mr Vincent NG, Mr Anthony CHEUNG, Mr Walter CHAN** and **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** were concerned about the insufficient ridership. **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** added that low ridership would undermine the energy efficiency of the additional ferry services. **Mr Honson YUEN** responded that the target users of the proposed ferry services would be both tourists and commuters.

- 6.6 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** asked whether TD had engaged relevant stakeholder such as tourism or ferry trade when deciding the pier locations. Citing Kai Tak as an example, he opined that the proposed pier locations were distant from the cruise terminal and travellers could enjoy a better harbourview if the pier was near to cruise terminal facing Victoria Harbour. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** and **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** echoed his views. **Mr Honson YUEN** responded that TD had sounded out the ferry trade representatives on the proposed locations for opinions early this year before issuing the EOI. Proposals of alternative pier locations from interested ferry operators would also be welcome.
- 6.7 **Mr Vincent NG** stressed the importance of water-land interface. He urged TD to give due consideration to the locations of the piers in order to achieve synergy with landside activities or events to attract people.
- 6.8 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested providing food and beverage facilities, such as kiosks, at the Hung Hom Pier.

Pier beautification

6.9 **The Chair** enquired if the EOI had clearly stated that the service provider would need to consult HC on any proposal on beautification of piers. **Mr Honson YUEN** responded that the operators would be required to consult relevant stakeholders, including the Town Planning Board and HC, on their proposal.

Way forward

6.10 **The Chair** thanked Member for their comments. He suggested referring it to the Task Force on Water-land Interface for follow up and invited TD to update Members on

the progress in due course.

Item 7 Study on Pedestrian Connectivity between Wan Chai and Sheung Wan (Paper No. TFHK/07/2018)

(Note: The Chair excused himself from the meeting and Members agreed that the HC Chair, Mr Vincent NG to preside at the meeting from this point.)

Briefing by TD

7.1 **Mr Charles HO** and **Mr Ray TANG** briefed Members on the proposed walkway alignments and improvement schemes developed under the Feasibility Study of Pedestrian Connectivity on Hong Kong Island North between Wan Chai and Sheung Wan with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

General comments

- 7.2 Mr Vincent NG, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Mr Anthony CHEUNG, Dr Eunice MAK, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, Sr Francis LAM and Mr Andy LEWIS generally welcomed the initiative of improving pedestrian connections and promoting walkability.
- 7.3 **Sr Francis LAM** commented that the elevated walkways, if constructed, should adopt an artistic architectural design to integrate with the surrounding area. **Ms Carmen CHU** responded that the footbridge proposal was still at a preliminary stage. Views from the public on its design would be collected if the proposal was eventually adopted.
- 7.4 Noting that there was a separate consultancy study being conducted on walkability, **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** suggested inviting the consultancy concerned to share its findings to

Members in future. **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the Chief Executive announced the "Walk in HK" initiative in the 2017 Policy Address and the Transport and Housing Bureau and TD had commissioned a territory-wide consultancy study on the initiative. Members would be briefed on the study progress in due course.

Strategic and comprehensive planning for pedestrian connectivity

- 7.5 Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN commented that strategic planning or principles should be established for guiding the design of pedestrian connections for both underground, at-grade and above-ground levels. Dr Eunice MAK, Mr Anthony CHEUNG and Mr Andy LEWIS echoed his views. Mr Andy LEWIS pointed out that the study lacked strong connectivity among the three subject districts and suggested conducting a comprehensive planning for it.
- 7.6 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** commented that all relevant information including any study and planning that had been carried out in the study area should be examined to arrive at the best design of connections
- 7.7 **Mr Vincent NG** said that the Harbour Planning Principles stipulated that "Victoria Harbour must integrate with the hinterland in a comprehensive manner, including ample unrestricted and convenient visual and physical access for pedestrians, preferably at grade, to and along the Harbour as well as the harbour-front areas." On that basis, footbridge should only be considered as an alternative if at-grade connection was not feasible.
- 7.8 **Ms Carmen CHU** responded that the focus of the study was to enhance the connection between the existing footbridge networks in Wan Chai and Sheung Wan to provide a continuous east-west pedestrian walkway. The study had incorporated the experience from similar projects in the past and comments from public and private sectors. Members' comments would be taken into account when refining the

proposals.

Proposed north-south pedestrian connections

- 7.9 **Sr Francis LAM** suggested enhancing the connectivity between the subject districts and the adjacent mass transit railway stations.
- 7.10 **Mr Vincent NG** said that improving the connectivity and pedestrian environment of the harbourfront was one of the visions of HC. The connection between Tamar Park and Admiralty Station had set a good example for it.
- 7.11 Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN considered that an at-grade connection should be provided from Site 3 to the harbourfront at a northeast direction. In addition, the elevated walkway between Admiralty Centre and Tamar Park should be improved so that people could walk directly to Queensway Plaza. He added that it would worth exploring the possibility of constructing pedestrian links through the premium wavier scheme implemented by the Government. In response, Miss **Rosalind CHEUNG** supplemented that the Government had implemented a pilot facilitation scheme to encourage landowners to construct pedestrian links including footbridges or subways at their own cost in accordance with the planned pedestrian network in Kowloon East by waiving the land premium payable for the required lease modification, with a view to providing a safe, comfortable and convenient network. Apart from Kowloon East, the Government would also consider applications for premium waiver for pedestrian links in other districts on a case-by-case basis.

Proposed east-west pedestrian walkway

7.12 With regard to the proposal to improve the pedestrian connection between the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Sheung Wan, **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** was concerned about

the removal of landing steps and the relocation of the Western Water Selling Kiosk. He preferred cutting the planter for widening the promenade rather than removing landing steps and the Water Selling Kiosk. **Mr Vincent NG** stressed that it was the consensus of all HC members all landing steps within the harbourfront area should be retained with a view to providing adequate facilities to enhance water-land interface in the future.

7.13 **Mr Vincent NG** stressed the importance of providing a continuous at-grade pedestrian connection between East and West of the harbourfront. The at-grade pedestrian connection should serve as connector for people access, as well as POS for people staying around the harbourfront.

Way forward

7.14 **Mr Vincent NG** remarked that the proposed construction of an elevated walkway should be critically examined to provide connection between the hinterland and harbour. He reiterated that the harbourfront was an essential at-grade eastwest connector. Any eventual proposals of enhancing pedestrian connectivity should draw people towards rather than away from the harbourfront.

Item 8 2019 Hong Kong E-Prix (Paper No. TFHK/08/2018)

<u>Presentation by the Tourism Commission (TC) and Formula</u> <u>Electric Racing (Hong Kong) Limited</u>

8.1 **Mr Simpson LO** said that the FIA Formula E Championship Hong Kong E-Prix ("the race") had been successfully organised in Hong Kong in the past two years. The events had enhanced vibrancy at harbourfront areas and drawn global attention to Hong Kong. TC was fully supportive to organising the race in 2019 in Hong Kong again by coordinating among relevant government departments.

- 8.2 With the aid of a Powerpoint, **Ms Coffee PANG** and **Mr Tat SUNG** briefed Members on the proposed Short-Term Tenancies (STT) of five Government sites in the new Central Harbourfront area for staging the race.
- 8.3 Given the race was successfully organised in the past years with the support of HC and free access would be provided along the waterfront in Central during race day, **Mr Vincent NG** concluded that the Commission had no objection to the proposed STT of five Government sites in the new Central Harbourfront area for staging the race.

Item 9 Any Other Business

Election of Task Force Chair

- 9.1 Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN suggested arranging the nomination of Task Force Chair before the relevant meeting by circulation. Miss Rosalind CHEUNG responded that while the existing House Rules did not detail the administrative procedures for election of Task Force Chair, Member's comments would be taken into account when arranging election in the future.
- 9.2 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Secretariat

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island Harbourfront Commission February 2019